



MIPN Quarterly Newsletter

Midwest Invasive Plant Network, www.mipn.org

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Midwest Invasive Plant Network and Stewardship Network to Hold Joint Conference in January

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network will be joining with a new partner this year for our annual conference on invasive plants. On January 22 & 23, 2010, we will team up with the Stewardship Network to co-host "Science, Practice, and Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems" at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

This joint conference will allow participants to learn about both what we are working to prevent-- invasive plants-- and what we are working to protect-- native species and ecosystems. By combining our two Networks for this conference, we will be combining experts on both areas for our attendees to learn about the whole picture of protecting the biodiversity of our native ecosystems.

The two-day conference will include both traditional talks and interactive workshop sessions to provide participants with the latest scientific information on invasive plants and restoration of native ecosystems, while also providing opportunities for networking and discussion with the experts.

We have lined up two keynote speakers: Janet Clark and Les Mehrhoff. Janet Clark is the Associate Director for Policy at the Center for Invasive Plant Management in Bozeman, Montana and a member of the National Invasive Species Council's Invasive Species Advisory Committee. She will be talking about the newly remodeled National Invasive Species Awareness Week (formerly National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week) and other current issues in national invasive species policy.

Les Mehrhoff from the University of Connecticut will be talking about his work with the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE), a web-based atlas of invasive plant information, designed to assist in early detection efforts.

Both one- and two-day registration rates for the conference are available. We are currently accepting abstracts for talks and posters, as well. For more information on the agenda, registration, or submitting an abstract, visit www.stewardshipnetwork.org. We hope to see you there!



Meet Our Board of Directors

Bob Fitch has been executive director of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) since 1996. He is a past president of the Nursery & Landscape Association Executives of North America and a past president of the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group. Bob is a member of the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) Invasive Plants Committee and recently served on a task force charged with examining and re-writing Minnesota's terrestrial noxious weed regulations.

As MNLA executive director, he has helped the organization take environmentally proactive positions on invasive plant regulations and education. In addition, he has daily interaction with the growers, garden centers, and landscape professionals whose livelihood is affected by these environmental initiatives and regulations. Bob has been in association management for 17 years and, prior to that, was a newspaper editor and reporter. He holds a B.A. from Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Bob is a native of South Dakota where his parents operate the 136-year-old Fitch Farm. Bob and his wife, Kathy, live in suburban St. Paul with their son, Cole, daughter-in-law, Mandy, and their new grandson, Robby. Kathy is a teacher of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.



Bob Fitch



Rachel Gagnon

Rachel Gagnon is the Coordinator for the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC), a new non-profit organization made up of various agencies and organizations across the province, working together to effectively fight against the growing threat of invasive plants. Her past experience includes three years with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Emerald Ash Borer Control Program, GIS technician with the City of Peterborough's Flood Reduction Plan, and, most recently, Terrestrial Invasive Outreach Liaison with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Rachel is a graduate of the Forestry Technician program at Sault College of Applied Arts and Sciences and Fleming College's Geographic Information Systems Cartographic Specialist Program. She also has a certification in green building through the Sustainable Building Design and Construction Program.

Rachel has a passion for the environment and a keen interest in invasive plants and invasive plant control.

Japanese knotweed in Wisconsin found to set seed

Japanese knotweed was introduced to North America in the late 19th century for use as an ornamental and has since become invasive in natural areas across the Midwest. Japanese knotweed spreads primarily by rhizomes or stem fragments that are transported by floodwaters or moved in soil. Until recently, it was believed that there was little to no reproduction by seed, because fertile male plants were very rare. However, this spring, staff at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources discovered populations of Japanese knotweed with viable seed.

This unfortunate discovery means that Japanese knotweed will now be able to spread farther and more unpredictably by seed, in addition to its spread by rhizome and stem fragments. It will be more likely to spread to upland areas that are moist enough for it to grow, rather than primarily being confined to riparian areas.

Brock Woods of the Wisconsin DNR recommends taking the following steps to limit the spread of Japanese knotweed on lands that you manage.

- Learn to recognize Japanese knotweed. Its distinctive features include reddish, bamboo-like stems that can reach 10 feet in height, alternate egg-shaped to triangular leaves, and abundant sprays of tiny white flowers blooming in late summer.
- Do your best to control it, especially female plants that could potentially set seed.

- Make sure you don't plant Japanese knotweed. It is still sold in nurseries under many different names, including dinosaur plant, French lace, Japanese bamboo, Mexican bamboo, Japanese fleecflower, Japanese polygonum, false bamboo, Kontiki bamboo, and bombascus, as well as several different Latin names.
- For information on identification or control of Japanese knotweed, visit http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/publications/pdfs/japanese_knotweed_brochure.pdf or pick up a copy of MIPN's *Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest*.



Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Narrow-leaf bittercress found in Michigan and Minnesota

Narrow-leaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*) is an invasive plant that was first recorded in New Hampshire in 1916. It has recently been found in one county in Michigan. Reports from Minnesota this summer indicate that it has also been found in Ramsey County, MN, near the Mississippi River.

Keep an eye out for narrow-leaf bittercress in your area. The plant is a biennial, and its leaves are pinnately divided with numerous, sharply-toothed leaflets and pointed auricles at the leaf base. Seedpods are long, slender siliques. For more information, see www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week To Be Held in Washington, D.C. in January

For the past several years, people concerned about invasive plants have been gathering in Washington, DC for National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW) in late February to talk with policy makers and legislators about the problems associated with invasive plants and to advocate for better legislation and more federal funds for invasive plant management. This year, organizers have broadened the focus and moved up the date. The first National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be held January 10-14, 2010.

The event is organized by a national, bi-partisan coalition of groups representing private citizens, local and state natural resource and agriculture agencies, academia, professional scientific societies, environmental organizations, and businesses such as nurseries and the pet industry that are affected by non-na-

tive, invasive species. The goals of the gathering are to

- Call attention to invasive species issues – targeting Congress and Federal agencies
- Generate action – empowering new policies and adequate funding
- Build a national grassroots network – working together to limit the impacts of invasive species

Notable spokespersons, Federal agency and Congressional leadership, and leading experts in climate change, energy, and the “green economy” will be invited to present information, recommendations, and responses. It is expected that several hundred people from across the U.S. will attend this inaugural event.

For more information about NISAW, visit www.nisaw.org.

Last Chance for Discounted Price on MIPN Field Guide

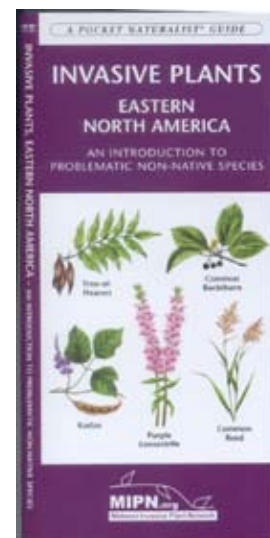


We are nearly sold out of our first printing of “A Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest”. Once the guides are gone, the price will increase from \$3/guide to \$3.50 for members and \$6 for non-members. Order now to get the discounted price!

If you haven't yet gotten a copy of our Pocket Naturalist Guide to Invasive Plants of the East-

ern U.S., consider ordering a copy today. This guide is a great tool for quick field identification. It is laminated to withstand field conditions, and it fits easily in your pocket or glove compartment. Guides are \$3.50 for members and \$6.00 for non-members. Bulk discounts are available for large quantities.

To order contact Kate Howe at howek@purdue.edu.



Wisconsin Implements New Invasive Species Rules

In response to growing concern about invasive species in Wisconsin, the state legislature directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a new rule to limit trade and transport of invasive plant and animal species. The new rule, known as Chapter NR 40, classifies certain species as either Prohibited or Restricted. Species deemed Prohibited may not be transported, possessed, transferred, or introduced. Restricted species are also subject to a ban on transport, transfer and introduction, but possession is allowed. Exceptions to these rules may be allowed when a permit is provided by the DNR. These rules are aimed at preventing new invasive species from getting into Wisconsin and enabling quick action to control or eradicate those that are present in Wisconsin but not yet established.

The rules also require preventive measures for certain activities to prevent the spread of invasive species. Guidelines were developed for aquatic species, including requirements to clean all boats and trailers and restrictions on the use of certain species for bait. Four sets of Best Management Practices (BMPs) were developed to prevent the spread of invasive plants through specific activities: Forestry; Recreational Use of Forests; Urban Forestry; and Transportation and Utility Rights-of-Way.

Under NR40, 6 species of algae and cyanobacteria, 39 species of plants, 29 species of animals, and 1 fungal pathogen are listed as Prohibited in Wisconsin. Some examples of the plant species included are porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). These species are not yet present in Wisconsin or in the specific region of the state where they are prohibited but have been determined to be likely to survive and

spread if introduced into the state, potentially causing economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. An additional 46 species of plants and 4 species of animals are listed as Restricted under NR40, meaning that they are already established in the state and cause or have the potential to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Statewide or regional eradication or containment may not be feasible for this group of species, which includes species such as garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).

More information on the rules are available on the Wisconsin DNR's website. Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/> for more information on definitions, listed species, best management practices, or information on how to report a sighting of any of the listed species.



Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)
Photo by Jil Swearingen, USDI National Park
Service, Bugwood.org

Upcoming Meetings

Joint Meeting of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network and The Stewardship Network, Jan. 22-23, 2010, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

For the first time ever, the Midwest Invasive Plant Network will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Stewardship Network's Conference in Lansing, Michigan. MIPN and the Stewardship Network have worked

closely together on a variety of projects, and we decided to join forces for our next annual meeting.

The conference will focus on the Science, Practice, and Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems and will be MIPN's first ever meeting in Michigan. We hope you will plan to attend. Stay tuned for more details on the meeting as it approaches. To learn more, visit [The logo for the Midwest Invasive Plant Network \(MIPN\) features a stylized green leaf with a stem and two smaller leaves extending from it. Below the leaf graphic, the text "MIPN.org" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the full name "Midwest Invasive Plant Network" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.](http://www.steward-</p></div><div data-bbox=)



Ohio Invasive Plant Research Conference, Feb. 18, 2010, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, OH

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council is pleased to present the 3rd Ohio Invasive Plant Research Conference bringing together land managers, researchers, students and the interested public for a day long event on invasive plants.

The conference will include:

- Dr. Richard Mack from Washington State University as the keynote speaker
- Various speakers on invasive plant research in Ohio
- Land managers' panel discussion
- Poster session

For more information, visit www.oipc.info.

